United Nations S/2003/142

# Security Council

Distr.: General
4 February 2003

Original: English

## Letter dated 4 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith, in my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, the text of the communiqué issued by the seventh ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held at the level of Heads of State and Government, at Addis Ababa on 3 February 2003.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and the annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of South Africa to the United Nations

03-23612 (E) 050203

**Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

[Original: English and French]

# Communiqué of the seventh ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution at Heads of State and Government Level

**Addis Ababa, 3 February 2003**

Following the First Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 7th Ordinary Session at the level of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3rd February 2003. The Session was chaired by the Chairperson of the African Union, President Thabo Mbeki.

The Session examined various conflict situations on the continent in light of the report submitted by the Interim Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

The Session also examined the Iraqi crisis

After its deliberations, the Central Organ took the following decisions:

## A. BURUNDI

**The Central Organ:**

1. **WELCOMES** the signing of ceasefire agreements between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the CNDD-FDD of Jean Bosco Ndayikengurukiye, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL of Alain Mugabarabona and the CNDD-FDD of Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza on 7 October and 2 December 2002, respectively. The Central Organ **STRONGLY URGES** the PALIPEHUTU-FNL of Agathon Rwasa to engage in ceasefire negotiations with the Transitional Government of Burundi, without further delay;

2. **APPROVES** the deployment of the African Mission provided for in the 2 December 2002 Ceasefire Agreement and **EXPRESSES** appreciation to the Governments of South Africa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Mozambique, which have indicated their willingness to contribute troops for the Mission. In this respect, the Central Organ **REQUESTS** South Africa, the chair of the African Union, to lead the efforts to ensure a speedy deployment of the Mission in Burundi and **CALLS ON**

the Burundi Parties to extend full cooperation in order to facilitate the deployment;

3. **APPEALS** to AU Member States and the international community at large, to provide the required financial and logistical support for the deployment of the African Mission. The Central Organ **APPEALS ALSO** for support for the deployment of the African Union Observers, to maintain and consolidate the truce between the Parties pending the deployment of the African Mission.

## B. CÔTE D'IVOIRE

**The Central Organ:**

1. **WELCOMES** the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Accord of 24 January 2003, which forms a basis for achieving a lasting solution to the crisis, and **URGES** all the parties to honour the commitments made and to create a conducive environment for its speedy implementation;

2. **COMMENDS** the leaders of the region for all the initiatives they have taken since the outbreak of the crisis to bring peace to Côte d'Ivoire and **MANDATES** ECOWAS to continue these efforts and to report to the Union;

3. **REQUESTS** the AU Chairperson and the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to consider appropriate ways and means of strengthening initiatives by ECOWAS;

4. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the grave violations of human rights committed against the civilian populations and **URGES** all the parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law. The Central Organ **REQUESTS** the African Commission on Human and People's Rights to investigate these violations;

5. **REQUESTS** AU Member States, the United Nations and the International Community at large to extend financial and logistical assistance to ECOWAS to facilitate the full deployment of its peacekeeping force in Côte d'Ivoire;

6. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern at the humanitarian and socio-economic impact of the crisis on Côte d'Ivoire and the neighboring countries and **ENCOURAGES** the countries concerned to make concerted efforts to address the situation. It **CALLS ON** the International Community to provide assistance in this regard.

## C. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

**The Central Organ:**

1. **SUPPORTS** the efforts made by CEMAC to promote peace and stability in the Central African Republic and the efforts to bring about reconciliation between the Central African Republic and Chad;

2. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the implementation of the measures contained in the Libreville Communiqué of 2 October 2002, including the deployment of the CEMAC troops in the Central African Republic and **REQUESTS** the United Nations and AU Member States to urgently provide the requisite logistical and financial assistance to the CEMAC force, to enable it fulfill its mandate;

3. **ENCOURAGES** President Ange Felix Patasse to pursue his efforts towards the convening of an all-inclusive national dialogue in order to promote national reconciliation in CAR;

4. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** President El Hadj Omar Bongo of the Gabonese Republic and the other leaders of CEMAC to continue to pursue their efforts.

## D. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

**The Central Organ:**

1. **WELCOMES** the conclusion in Pretoria, on 17 December 2002, of the Comprehensive Peace Accord for the Transition in the DRC, and **REQUESTS** all parties concerned to fully cooperate with the Facilitator, Sir Ketumile Masire, in order to convene, as soon as possible, the Inter-Congolese Dialogue that would formally endorse the Pretoria Accord, to ensure its effective implementation;

2. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the renewed fighting, which has resulted in grave violations of human rights in the Ituri region. The Central Organ **CALLS** on the Parties concerned to expedite the process of establishing the Ituri Pacification Commission provided for in the Luanda Agreement;

3. **URGES** the Parties to make use of the existing mechanisms to address differences and allegations over non-compliance with the Agreements they have signed;

4. **REQUESTS** the Troika of the Central Organ, under the chairmanship of President Thabo Mbeki, acting on behalf of the African Union, to take all appropriate steps to sustain the momentum in the peace and reconciliation process in the DRC.

## E. MADAGASCAR

**The Central Organ:**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the evolution of the situation in Madagascar since the Durban Summit and **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly of the Union to recognize Mr. Marc Ravalomanana as the legitimate President of the Republic of Madagascar;

2. **UNDERSCORES** the need for national reconciliation to create conditions for lasting peace and stability in the country and **REQUESTS** the Interim Chairperson of the Commission to engage the Government and the Malagasy parties, including through the convening of a Round Table to address all outstanding issues related to human rights, the rule of law as well as the issue of political detainees.

## F. COMOROS

**The Central Organ :**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the Ministerial meeting of the countries of the region and the Troika held in Moroni from 28 to 29 January 2003 and **ENDORSES** its recommendations

2. **CALLS ON** the Comoran parties to fully cooperate in the implementation of these recommendations, in particular the holding of legislative elections according to the timetable proposed by the Follow-up Committee of the Fomboni Agreement of 17 February 2001, in order to complete the process of establishing institutions of the Union of the Comoros, including the National Assembly, the Assemblies of the Islands and the Constitutional Court.

## G. LIBERIA

**The Central Organ:**

**REITERATES** its appeal to the UN Security Council to reconsider its decision on the sanctions imposed against Liberia.

## H. DECLARATION ON THE IRAQI CRISIS

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution of the African Union, meeting in its 7th Ordinary Session at Summit level on 3 February 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, expresses its deep concern over the heightened international tension arising from the issue of the disarmament of Iraq.

The Central Organ is of the view that a military confrontation in Iraq would be a destabilizing factor for the whole Region and would have far reaching economic and security consequences for all the countries of the world and, particularly, for those of Africa.

The Central Organ, under these circumstances, reiterates its commitment to the effective implementation of Resolution 1441 which requires that all weapons of mass destruction in Iraq should be eliminated and that Iraq should cooperate fully with the UN Inspection Team in this regard.

The Central Organ declares that the territorial integrity of Iraq should be respected and underlines that all diplomatic means should be pursued by International Community to ensure that the Iraqi Government complies fully with the provisions of Resolution 1441 and that, in any case, any new decision on the matter should emanate from the UN Security Council, after a consideration of the final Report of the Inspection Team.

The Central Organ urges all the parties to make sustained efforts to avoid the use of force, while ensuring the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

Finally, the Central Organ reaffirms the central role of the United Nations and, particularly, the Security Council, in any action or initiative aimed at maintaining and strengthening peace and international security.